

rather support the journals whose reading pages, as well as whose advertising pages, they can buy? Can it be that they have some hope that through lack of support the state journals will not live and the present movement for reform will stop? Why not reciprocity? If we support a manufacturing house, why not insist that that house support your JOURNAL? It places its advertisement in journals which are *fighting against* our campaign for honesty in *materia medica*; why not place it in your own JOURNAL which is fighting for honesty? Every honest manufacturer who is really dealing in good faith with the medical profession, and who advertises at all, should support the journals representing the profession by advertising in them; if he does not, but rather chooses to advertise in the published-for-profit medical (?) journals, what is the reason? There is something very peculiar about this; should we not try to find out what it is?

The New York Academy of Medicine announces that the Edward N. Gibbs Memorial Prize, of \$1,000 will be awarded on October 1st, 1909, to the author of the best essay on the subject of "The Etiology, Pathology and Treatment of the Diseases of the Kidney." All essays must be presented before the date given. New discovery or fruitful research will be considered the standard of merit, and each one of the three divisions of the subject may be treated at as much length as the author sees fit, but an essay, in order to obtain the prize, must show originality. If no essay of sufficient merit is received, the Academy reserves the right to make no award. Essays should be sent to the Committee of the New York Academy of Medicine on The Edward N. Gibbs Memorial Prize, from which committee full details may be had upon request.

It is a great thing, from the business man's standpoint, to have conventions meet in his city; it is entirely immaterial what sort of folk convent so long as they *do* convent. The stranger within the gates must live and therefore he must spend money. *Q. E. D.* It is a matter of course that the commercial bodies and city officials of a convention city make every effort to secure all the conventions they possibly can and to issue invitations galore and write letters full of guff and soft soap. But that is no reason why the mayor of such a city should at one and the same time write himself an ass and extend a gratuitous insult to the educated and thinking people of his community. Los Angeles is trying to get the National osteopathic organization to meet there in 1909, and of course the usual number of invitations have been issued. One of these comes from Mr. A. C. Harper, mayor, and an extract from it, as it appears in the *Cosmopolitan Osteopath* for May-June, is as follows:

"We offer you the friendly environment, not only of the state having the largest number of

osteopathic physicians in the world, but we offer you the city having the largest number of osteopathic physicians of any city in the world; which means that population which gives the largest recognition to and patronage of osteopathy.

"To carry the thought further, it means a city of 300,000 population, all of whose eight daily newspapers give friendly and sympathetic news service of osteopathic procedure. Indeed, no newspaper in America has made that systematic and long continued and exhaustive campaign for the advancement of rational therapeutics that has been made by Dr. Harry Brooke, editor of the 'Care of the Body Department' of the *Sunday Times Magazine*."

The Los Angeles *Times* stands now, and has stood for many years, opposed to everything scientific, everything pertaining to rational medicine and medical science. Harry Brooke is not a "Dr." and never was. He is of the long-haired "Otis, Mex." variety of freak and weekly fills sundry columns of the *Times* with the most awful slush and drivel, relic of the superstition and the ignorance of the middle ages, samples of a cerebration which any alienist would find little difficulty in classifying. And of this sort of thing is the mayor of Los Angeles proud! Truly, it was not without reason that Los Angeles became known, some years ago, as the "Mecca of the quack."

Many and various, and coming down from the ages are the maxims, proverbs, sayings, what you will, that attempt to put into a few words what is an inexorable law of nature in the sifting process of retributive justice.

"The mills of the Gods grind slowly but they grind exceeding fine;" "honesty is the best policy;" "truth, crushed to earth, will rise again," etc., etc., *ad nauseam*. Yet the fact is so seldom appreciated. Whatsoever a man may do, if he is honest with himself first, last and all the time, and if he goes through the world doing that thing which he knows is the right thing for him to do; playing the game honestly according to the rules; giving every man a square deal and not lifting his hand to injure another, just so surely, and no matter what others may say or do nor how much criticism or calumny may be his portion, just so surely will he eventually come into his own and receive that reward which no money can buy. It may not come to him in the shape of riches or place or fame; when the last word is said and forgotten, these are but trifling piffle. It may not even be recognition during his lifetime; but it will surely be that inward satisfaction of having done the right thing, of having fought the good fight, of having played the square, clean game, of having lived to some purpose, which brings lasting contentment and "the peace of God which passeth all understanding." The other fellow may cheat, or be crooked or do those things "which no gentleman will do" and gain riches or temporary place. It

may even seem that no man has found him out or that he has lost nothing of the respect of his fellows; yet he hates and despises himself and, soon or late, he or his name sinks to the level which belongs to his type. Retributive justice sometimes seems to halt, to limp, to crawl, even to pause for long; but the certainty of it is fascinating. "Time is the essence of all things," and time is nature's tither; slow, sure, safe, inexorable. Live so that "you may look any man in the eye and tell him to go to hell," may sound a bit harsh in sensitive ears; but it is mighty true and mighty good philosophy, and if you do, you need not worry about the other fellow; nature and time will tend to his case.

A number of instances of outbreaks of smallpox having their origin in some case of varioloid, mistakenly diagnosed as chickenpox, have come to our attention. Repeatedly has the

VARICELLA OR VARIOLOID. JOURNAL urged the significant danger in the steady increase of smallpox in this State; again must the warning be uttered. Give the most minute attention to every case of apparent varicella and preferably notify the health authorities at once, so that the most careful examination may be made and the possibility of establishing a focus of variola infection eliminated. To ignore the slightest precaution in these cases is to play dangerously with fire; and to light up an epidemic of smallpox in this twentieth century, would be a lasting disgrace to our profession. There is a great deal of varioloid or mild smallpox in the state and it is very easily, and not infrequently, mistaken for varicella; occasionally with disastrous results to many people. Let us err rather on the side of too much caution than too little.

A pharmacist in Los Angeles recently wrote a letter to a physician in that community commenting wisely upon a prescription written by the said physician which had come to his drug store to be filled.

THE HARM WE WORK.

Why do not more pharmacists write to the physicians whose prescriptions they fill, calling attention to the injury done the pharmacist by the careless use of proprietary preparations? It is only through enlightenment that physicians can learn the harm they are working through their ignorance of actual facts and existing conditions, and the pharmacist can give this information more easily, more surely and more frequently than can any other. We very gladly print Mr. Fulton's letter and we trust that he and other pharmacists will continue this good work. It is a shame that members of our profession have been so hoodwinked by the skillful lies of the manufacturers of proprietary mixtures that they have been led into doing so great harm to the profession of pharmacy. It is not merely the monetary hardship which we work upon the pharmacist—though that is bad enough—but we sink him to the level of the merely mechanical paster

of labels or wrapper of packages of "ready-to-wear" medicines. We have a board of pharmacy working to raise the standard of pharmacists; we have a medical profession working to sink the pharmacist to the level of the mechanical shop clerk who but hands out ready-made packages. Letters of just this sort will be of the greatest value, for they call the attention of the individual physician to some one specific case, and in time they will have their effect.

And now comes the newest of our states—Oklahoma—bearing gifts and olive branches in its hands and presents to the family of state medical organization journals our **FAMILY ADDITION.** youngest born. With June is issued Volume 1 Number 1 of the

Journal of the Oklahoma State Medical Association. We regret to note that it contains the advertisement of glycothymoline, a preparation which was given two years to set itself right before the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry—and did not attempt to do so. Such preparations are intended for general public consumption and self-doping, and the medical profession is merely used in the first instance to introduce the stuff and exploit it at the cost of the lay public. If you doubt the truth of this, just go to the nearest drug store and ask to see an *original package* of the preparation in question. Do not content yourself with merely looking at the label on the sample package which the manufacturer will gladly send you, but consult the label on the original trade package. You will there learn things that will doubtless surprise you; a most extensive list of diseases will there be found, and of course glycothymoline will cure them all. Oklahoma, go back and begin right. Cut out the unholy alliance between our profession and the lies and frauds of the nostrum man. Depend upon the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry which, please remember, is the only institution in the world to which the medical man can go asking for the truth about materia medica preparations, and be sure of getting it. Don't believe anything that any manufacturer tells you, unless the Council says that the manufacturer is telling the truth. There is not one of them that has not, deliberately or inadvertently (and that is giving them the benefit of the doubt) lied to our profession and misstated either the composition of some of its wares or their active value. You cannot depend upon your own judgment, for you do not know enough to judge; you cannot depend upon the statements of the manufacturers, for they are all interested in but one thing—selling goods; and they have all told us—what was not the truth. The transmutation of metals is child's play in comparison with the wonderful changes which the manufacturer can produce in the action of well known drugs and chemicals, merely by means of a lie on the label. Do not let the published-for-profit medical (?) journals fool you into thinking that there is anything back of this movement except a desire to get the truth—the real, plain, ordinary, simple garden truth.